



## Sunday morning islanders were lined up to line their shelves

One event that bargain hunters and literature lovers consider a must do is the annual Biblioteca Nacional flea market. Sunday morning, May 30, Queen's Day or no, the library clears its shelves of volumes that are getting too old to keep, and sells all the books for the rock bottom price of one Aruban florin per book (\$.57!)

Hard or soft cover, big or small, the uniform price provides avid readers good reason to arrive with an empty shopping cart, as some did, and leave with stacks and stacks of volumes in all languages.

Classic literature, instructional manuals, children's books, and modern bestsellers were to be found in any of the four languages that are commonly spoken on Aruba. Whether most comfortable reading in English, Dutch, Spanish or Papiamentu, there was something for everyone. There were also snacks and miscellaneous items including clothing available for pennies. Assistant Librarian Ronny Alders stated that from before opening time prospective shoppers were lined up around the block.

The proceeds from the flea market will assist the library in lining their shelves with new volumes, while the older books can become a part of a subscriber's personal library. Ronny expressed the belief that "the love of reading is a gift. A book can take you anywhere in the world, or beyond, as the only boundaries are the imagination of the writer and the reader." It would appear that a great many people will be traveling far and wide while sitting in their armchairs over the next few months!